

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: February 21, 2003

RE: Hospitalization of VT Residents for Behavioral Health Care, 1990 – 2000

The attached graphs and table provide information on total inpatient behavioral health care (mental health and substance abuse) by Vermont residents during 1990 through 2000. This analysis is based on a data set that includes episodes of hospitalization of Vermont residents in the Vermont State Hospital, the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction, the Brattleboro Retreat (the state's only private psychiatric hospital), as well as general hospitals in Vermont, New Hampshire, and neighboring counties of New York State.

This data set was constructed from data obtained from the Vermont Department of Health Hospital Discharge Data Set, the Brattleboro Retreat, and the Vermont State Hospital. *Episodes* of care are defined by a hospital stay of any duration during the year. *Patient days* is the sum of all days in inpatient care for behavioral health care during each year. *People served* is the unduplicated number of individuals with one or more inpatient stays during the year. Because the data set used in this analysis does not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to derive unduplicated counts of people served across facilities.

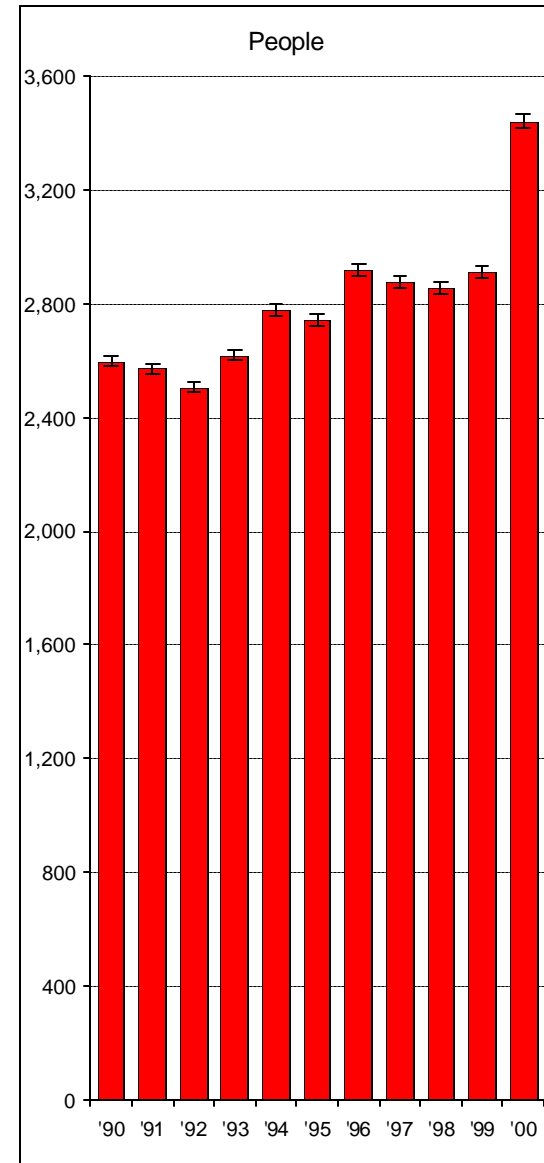
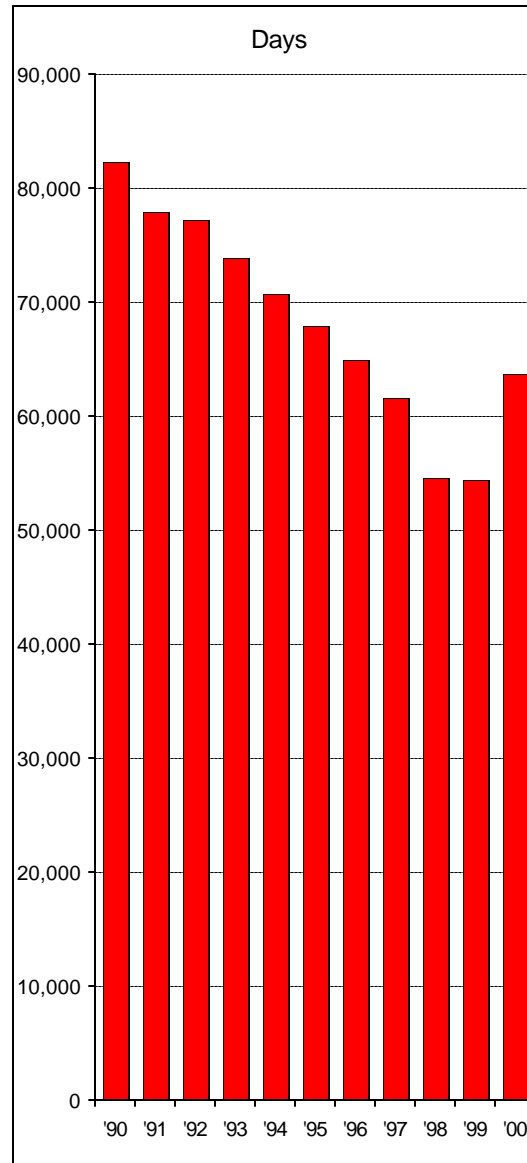
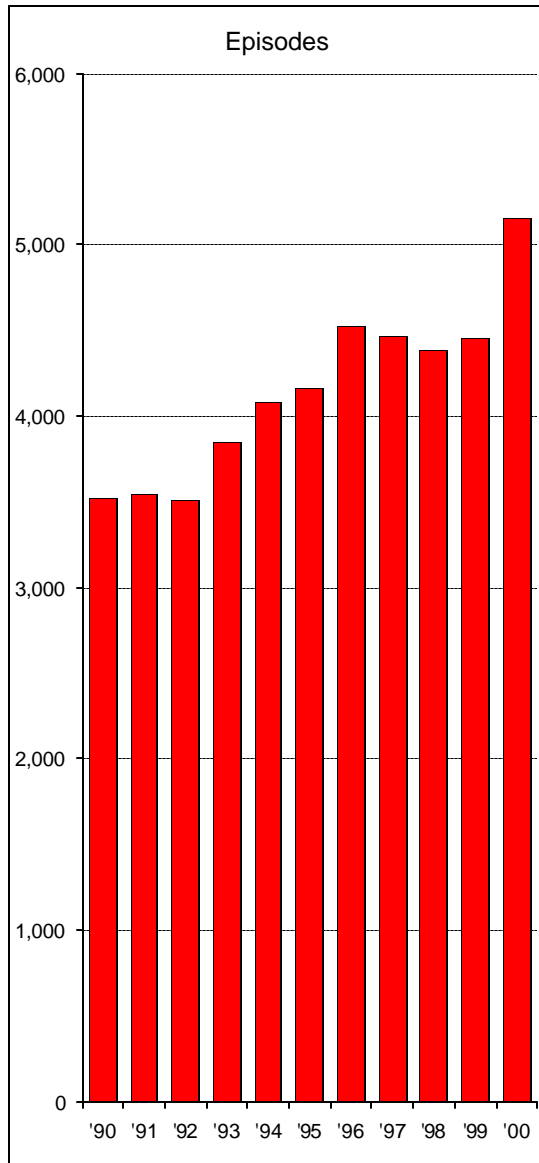
As you will see, there were distinct breaks from long-term trends for each of these indicators in 2000. The number of episodes of care increased substantially where previous years had seen moderate increases or no change. The number of patient days increased substantially after a long-term pattern of decreasing utilization. The number of people hospitalized increased substantially where previous years had seen moderate increases or no change.

More detailed hospital-by-hospital data for these basic indicators of hospital utilization for 1990 through 2000 are available on request. We expect the Hospital Discharge Data for 2001 will be available in March or April. We look forward to sharing the next installment in this longitudinal analysis with you at that time.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions for further analysis regarding the changes in inpatient behavioral health care utilization rates that were observed for the year 2000 to pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Provided To Vermont Residents During 1990 - 2000



Includes general hospitals in Vermont and neighboring states, the Veteran's Administration, the Brattleboro Retreat, and the Vermont State Hospital.

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Provided to Vermont Residents During 1990 - 2000

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Episodes of Hospitalization</u> | <u>Patient Days</u> | <u>People Served</u> |
|-------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2000 | 5,154 | 63,729 | 3,442 \pm 24 |
| 1999 | 4,459 | 54,466 | 2,910 \pm 20 |
| 1998 | 4,382 | 54,548 | 2,855 \pm 20 |
| 1997 | 4,464 | 61,548 | 2,876 \pm 20 |
| 1996 | 4,528 | 64,919 | 2,919 \pm 20 |
| 1995 | 4,194 | 68,261 | 2,744 \pm 19 |
| 1994 | 4,114 | 71,162 | 2,776 \pm 20 |
| 1993 | 3,846 | 73,957 | 2,620 \pm 18 |
| 1992 | 3,515 | 77,271 | 2,507 \pm 17 |
| 1991 | 3,550 | 77,816 | 2,571 \pm 18 |
| 1990 | 3,523 | 82,315 | 2,598 \pm 18 |

This report is based on analysis of data from three sources: the statewide hospital discharge data sets maintained by the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont State Hospital database maintained by the Vermont Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services, and an extract from the database of the Brattleboro Retreat, Vermont's only private psychiatric hospital. The State of Vermont does not have unique client identifiers across service providers. For this reason, Probabilistic Population Estimation has been used to provide unduplicated counts of people served (with 95% confidence intervals).